

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 172

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0197

EXDIS

PLEASE PASS WHITE HOUSE

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH

SUOJECT: USLO APPROACH TO DIPLOMATIC CORPS FUNCTIONS

REF: (A) PEKING 117 (B) STATE 098359

1. MY INCLINATION NOT TO ATTEND NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS WAS BASED TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT ON EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN BY DEAN OF PEKING DIPLOMATIC CORPS (REF A) THAT USLO ATTENDANCE MIGHT LEAD TO EMBARRASSMENT. ALTHOUGH PRESS CONTINUES TO SPECULATE AS TO WHETHER WE WILL ATTEND NATIONAL DAY RECEPTIONS, THOSE MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL DIPLOMATIC CORPS WHOM I HAVE MET THUS FAR APPEAR TO APPROVE THE POSITION USLO HAS ADOPTED. MOST DIPLOMATS HERE CONSIDER FULL- SCALE NATIONAL DAY RECEPTIONS PRIMARILY TO BE CORPS FUNCTIONS. HAVING ALREADY REGRETTEED SEVERAL NATIONAL DAY INVITATIONS, I BELIEVE IT WISE TO CONTINUE TO DO SO. CONSISTENCY WOULD SEEM TO DEMAND THAT OUR JUNIOR OFFICERS FOLLOW SUIT, WITH WHICH THEY AGREE. AS DEPARTMENT RIGHTLY SUGGESTS (REF B), OUR POLICY WILL ALSO BE TO REGRET INVITATIONS TO ANY OTHER FUNCTIONS ATTENDANCE AT WHICH IMPLIES FULL DIPLOMATIC STATUS. SOCIALIZING AMONG FOREIGNERS RESIDENT HERE, INCLUDING THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, IS BRISK. THEREFORE, I DO NOT THINK WE WILL MISS VALUABLE CONTACTS BY NOT PARTICIPATING IN DIPLOMATIC CORPS EVENTS. I AM TOLD THAT PRESENCE OF PRC OFFICIALS AT FORMAL FUNCTIONS IS CONSIDERED BY THEM BURDENSOME AND BORING, ATTITUDES WHICH THEY BARELY CONCEAL.

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2. AT PRESENT, I BELIEVE IT BEST IN THE ABSENCE OF CONTRARY GUIDANCE TO GIVE A FOURTH OF JULY RECEPTION FOR AMERICANS ONLY. (DIPLOMATS WOULD NOT RECEIVE INVITATIONS, SINCE WE ARE NOT ON THE DIPLOMATIC LIST.)

3. ABOVE REPRESENTS VIEW OF WHAT SEEMS APPROPRIATE TO DEAL WITH SITUATION IN PEKING. THINK PRCLO SHOULD HAVE EXPLANATION THAT OUR TREATMENT HERE OF VARIOUS PROTOCOL PROBLEMS SHOULD NOT INFLUENCE THEIR JUDGMENT ON PROCEDURES THERE, SINCE ENVIRONMENTS SO DIFFERENT.
BRUCE

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